



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary to Host Advisory Council Meeting and Public Hearing on the Sanctuary's Draft Management Plan

NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary will hold a public meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council in Galveston, Texas. Items on the agenda include a presentation of the recently released Draft Management Plan (DMP), a "Rigs to Reefs" presentation, discussion of the invasive Indo-Pacific Lionfish, and constituent reports. The sanctuary will take official public comments on the DMP and proposed rule during the public hearing session of the council meeting.

WHAT: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting and
Public Hearing on the Draft Management Plan

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (public hearing session at or around 1:00 p.m.)

WHERE: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Headquarters
4700 Avenue U., Bldg. 216
Galveston, TX 77551

WHO: NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

To receive more information, or to request a meeting agenda or copy of the Draft Management Plan, please contact Jennifer Morgan at (409) 621-5151 ext. 103 or Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov.

Established in 2005, the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council provides advice and recommendations on managing and protecting the sanctuary. The council is composed of five government and 16 non-governmental representatives. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the council members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public. Sanctuary advisory council members serve three-year terms and meet several times per year in public sessions.

Located 70 to 115 miles off the coast of Texas and Louisiana, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas — including 13 sanctuaries and one marine national monument managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Designated in 1992, the sanctuary is home to some of the healthiest coral reefs in the South Atlantic and Caribbean region. The sanctuary

currently includes three separate banks encompassing 56 square miles that are part of a larger system of reefs and banks along the continental shelf in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us at <http://www.noaa.gov> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov>.

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On the Web:

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

